

**Amendments In the Claims**

Please amend claims 1, 2, 9-11, 16-19 and 21 as follows:

1       1. (Currently Amended) A network verification tool (NVT) apparatus,  
2 comprising:  
3           a network under test;  
4           at least one probe network device coupled to the network under test, the at least  
5           one probe network device configured to host hosting at least one task  
6           type; and  
7           an NVT server coupled to the at least one probe network device, wherein  
8           the NVT server is configured to translate parameters entered by a user  
9           to instructions executable by the at least one probe network  
10          device allows a user to create at least one task for the at least  
11          one task type by entering parameters into a template for each  
12          of the at least one task,  
13          the NVT server is configured to transmit the instructions capable of  
14          transmitting the at least one task to the at least one probe  
15          network device hosting the task type, and  
16          the at least one probe network device is configured to execute capable of  
17          executing a process corresponding to the at least one task type in  
18          response to the instructions.

1       2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:  
2           an NVT client coupled to the NVT server, wherein  
3           the NVT client is configured to provide a provides the template to the  
4           user for entering the parameters, and  
5           the NVT client is configured to transmit the parameters to the NVT server.

1       3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the NVT server is coupled  
2          through an Ethernet control network and a communication server to the at least one probe  
3          network device.

1           4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one task type  
2 includes at least one of a traffic generator, a traffic analyzer, a large network emulator, a  
3 session emulator, a device query or a script task type.

1           5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the traffic generator is  
2 compatible with at least one combination of a protocol, a media and an encapsulation,  
3 wherein

4           the protocol is selected from the group consisting of IP, IPX, CLNS, Decnet,  
5           XNS, AppleTalk, VINES, TCP, UDP, ICMP, and IGMP;  
6           the media is selected from the group consisting of Ethernet, FDDI, Serial and  
7           Token Ring; and  
8           the encapsulation is selected from the group consisting of ARPA, SNAP, SAP,  
9           Novell-Ether and HDLC.

1           6. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein the session emulator task type is  
2 selected from the group consisting of a multi-protocol session emulator, a LLC2 single  
3 protocol session emulator, and a SDLC single protocol session emulator.

1           7. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein the large network emulator task  
2 type is selected from the group consisting of a BGP large network emulator, a EIGRP  
3 large network emulator, an IP RIP large network emulator, an IPX RIP large network  
4 emulator and an OSPF large network emulator.

1           8. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein the device query task type is  
2 selected from the group consisting of a query CPU, a query memory, a query IP route, a  
3 query BGP task, a query EIGRP task, a query OSPF task, a query multi-protocol session  
4 task, a query LLC2 single-protocol session task, a query SDLC single-protocol session  
5 task, and a query traffic analyzer task.

1       9. (Currently Amended) A method of testing a network, comprising:  
2       providing a test network comprising a having at least one probe network device  
3       hosting a task type and further comprising a network under test  
4       coupled to the probe network device coupled to a network under test,  
5       the at least one probe network device hosting at least one task type;  
6       providing a NVT server coupled to the ~~at least one~~ probe network device;  
7       specifying ~~at least one task~~ by entering the parameters for a task of the the at  
8       least one task type into a template ~~for the at least one task~~;  
9       translating converting the parameters at least one task into instructions  
10      executable by the ~~at least one~~ probe network device, wherein  
11      said translating is performed using the NVT server;  
12      transferring the instructions to the ~~at least one~~ probe network device;  
13      executing the task type associated with the instructions on the ~~at least one~~ probe  
14        network device in order to form a process;  
15      monitoring the test network in order to determine performance, wherein  
16        said monitoring is performed using the process.

1       10. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 9, wherein entering the  
2       parameters for a task of the task type specifying at least one task includes  
3       coupling an NVT client to the NVT server,  
4       transmitting a collection of templates corresponding to the ~~at least one~~ task type  
5       to the NVT client,  
6       entering parameters into at least one of the collection of templates to form the at  
7       least one task, and  
8       transmitting the ~~at least one~~ task to the NVT server.

1       11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the ~~at least one~~ task  
2       type includes at least one of a traffic generator, a traffic analyzer, a large network  
3       emulator, a session emulator, a device query or a script task type.

1           12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the traffic generator  
2 is compatible with at least one combination of a protocol, a media and an encapsulation,  
3 wherein

4                 the protocol is selected from the group consisting of IP, IPX, CLNS, Decnet,  
5                     XNS, AppleTalk, VINES, TCP, UDP, ICMP, and IGMP;  
6                 the media is selected from the group consisting of Ethernet, FDDI, Serial and  
7                     Token Ring; and  
8                 the encapsulation is selected from the group consisting of ARPA, SNAP, SAP,  
9                     Novell-Ether and HDLC.

1           13. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 11, wherein the session  
2 emulator task type is selected from the group consisting of a multi-protocol session  
3 emulator, a LLC2 single protocol session emulator, and a SDLC single protocol session  
4 emulator.

1           14. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 11, wherein the large network  
2 emulator task type is selected from the group consisting of a BGP large network  
3 emulator, a EIGRP large network emulator, an IP RIP large network emulator, an IPX  
4 RIP large network emulator and an OSPF large network emulator.

1           15. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 11, wherein the device query  
2 task type is selected from the group consisting of a query CPU, a query memory, a query  
3 IP route, a query BGP task, a query EIGRP task, a query OSPF task, a query multi-  
4 protocol session task, a query LLC2 single-protocol session task, a query SDLC single-  
5 protocol session task, and a query traffic analyzer task.

1           16. (**Currently Amended**) The method of Claim 11, wherein the NVT client  
2 and the NVT server are coupled through the Internet and the collection of templates and  
3 the **at least one** task are transmitted using JAVA/HTML processes.

1        17. (Currently Amended) A network testing method performed on a test  
2 network having at least one network device coupled to an NVT server, the method  
3 comprising:

4              forming a at least one task, the at least one task being formed by entering task  
5 parameters into a task template;  
6              translating interpreting the task parameters using the NVT server to form  
7 executable instructions that can be transmitted to a at least one probe  
8 network device that hosts a task code, wherein  
9              the task code executes the executable instructions.

1        18. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 17, wherein the at least one  
2 task is selected from a group of tasks consisting of a traffic generator, a traffic analyzer, a  
3 large network emulator, a session emulator, a device query or a script task.

1        19. (Currently Amended) A network verification test apparatus, comprising  
2 computer instructions implemented on an NVT server for  
3 sending task templates to a user;  
4 receiving tasks formed by the user entering parameters into the task templates;  
5 translating the tasks to task code configured to be executed by one or more  
6 probe network devices; and  
7 transmitting the task code to the one or more probe network devices.

1        20. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 19, wherein the task templates correspond  
2 to task types, the task types chosen from a group consisting of a traffic generator, a traffic  
3 analyzer, a large network emulator, a session emulator, a device query or a script task.

1        21. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 2 [[1]] wherein the NVT  
2 server is configured to transmit a collection of templates to the NVT client,  
3 wherein allows a user NVT server produce[[s]] instructions using the parameters,  
4 and wherein the instructions are included in the at least one task  
5 the collection of templates comprises a corresponding template for each of  
6 the at least one task types, and further comprises the template.